

2014-15 WIDA Communications from OSA

September 30, 2014

WIDA Professional Development Workshops and Trainings

Data Analysis: Focus on the Classroom

December 4 (repeat session December 5)

8:30 – 3:30 PM

Kellogg Center, East Lansing, MI

This 1-day workshop will focus on utilizing WIDA assessment data to improve classroom instruction. It is strongly recommended that grade level, school, or district teams attend this workshop. An ideal team would include general education teachers from across the content areas of mathematics, science, social studies, English language arts, as well as English as a second language educators. Teams with this makeup will aid schools in addressing academic language across all of WIDA's English Language Development standards. To register for this event, please send the following information to Cristina Rodriguez, rodriguezc@michigan.gov:

- Team members' names
- Grade(s) currently teaching
- Content area(s) currently teaching

Administering the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs

December 9

8:30 – 3:30 PM

Kellogg Center, East Lansing, MI

This workshop will give new WIDA test administrators an opportunity to learn about how to administer the summative ACCESS for ELLs. To register for this event, please send an e-mail to Cristina Rodriguez at rodriguezc@michigan.gov.

Administering the WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

December 10

8:30 – 3:30 PM

Kellogg Center, East Lansing, MI

This workshop will give new WIDA test administrators an opportunity to learn about how to administer the summative Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. This assessment is designed to assess your **English learners (ELs) who are also students with disabilities**. If you do not expect to administer this assessment to any students in your school you do not need to attend this workshop.

To register for this event, please send an e-mail to Cristina Rodriguez at rodriguezc@michigan.gov.

September 25, 2014

W-APT for Students from Other States

It is possible that you may have students arriving in your district from other states which use the WIDA assessments. In these cases, students' parents/guardians should still receive the Home Language Survey as a part of the enrollment process. However, districts should review [Michigan's W-APT Frequently Asked Questions](#) document to best determine next steps for usage of the W-APT.

Important WIDA Resources

If you don't currently have these documents, please take time to review them. These documents can be found at www.michigan.gov/wida:

- [2014-15 WIDA New Assessment Coordinator Primer](#)
- [2014-15 WIDA New Principal Primer](#)
- [W-APT FAQ](#)
- [Secure Site Instructions for W-APT](#)
- [Entrance and Exit Protocol](#)

September 17, 2014

WIDA New Assessment Coordinator and New Principal Primers Available

If you're a new Assessment Coordinator or a new Principal and want to make sure you have everything in order to start your school year off in the right direction when it comes to assessing your English Learners (ELs), then these documents are just for you! These handy documents help you make sure you are signed up for the correct listservs and user accounts with MDE and also aid you in understanding major acronyms. And if you're a principal, they can help you prepare yourself and your staff for a smooth year of testing your ELs by giving you some examples of major pitfalls and their solutions for districts. Go to www.michigan.gov/wida to check them out!

Testing Foreign Exchange Students

Administration of the Home Language Survey (HLS) and subsequent screening of **all** students who have a 'yes' indicated on that survey with the WIDA ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT) is a state and federal requirement. Students who are foreign exchange students are held to these same requirements. If students are found to be in need of EL services based on Michigan's [Entrance & Exit Protocol](#), these students must be identified as such in MSDS and will need to be assessed on the Spring 2015 WIDA ACCESS for ELLs.

Interpretation of Kindergarten WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Scores

Score reports for Kindergarten students who took the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs will show two proficiency levels (PLs): Instructional and Accountability. For placement decisions, districts should refer to the Accountability PL since this is on the same scale as that of the 1st - 12th grade assessments. The Student Data File available in the Secure Site includes these Accountability PLs only. However, schools may find it beneficial to utilize both PLs for differing purposes and should refer to the [WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide](#) to do so.

September 11, 2014

WIDA Assessment Overview for Charter Schools Webinar

Do you work for a new charter school? Are you a new test coordinator in a charter school? Do you need to know more about testing your English Learners (ELs)? The Office of Standards & Assessment (OSA) invites you to participate in a webinar on **Thursday, September 18, 2014 from 2:00 – 3:00**.

This WebEx is geared to help test coordinators in new charter schools understand the following:

- How to ensure you are receiving all testing communications from OSA
- How to ensure you are enrolling students who are potential ELs
- Where to find the most important resources regarding testing of your ELs
- The general processes and times of year for the WIDA assessments

To confirm your participation in this event, please send an e-mail to Cristina Rodriguez at rodriguezc@michigan.gov.

Spring 2015 WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Field Test Webinar

If your district is interested in participating in the online version of the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 this coming spring, you may attend a webinar on **September 26th at 4:00 PM** for an overview of the assessment. If you are unable to attend the webinar, it will be recorded and posted on [WIDA's website](#). Please e-mail Cristina Rodriguez at rodriguezc@michigan.gov for the call-in information.

2015-16 WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Webinar

On **September 19th at 4:00 PM** WIDA will host a webinar to provide districts with a brief overview of the online ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 operational test that will be used in the 2015-16 school year. WIDA encourages participants to watch the new [ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Overview Webinar Recording](#) prior to this webinar. Please e-mail Cristina Rodriguez at rodriguezc@michigan.gov for the call-in information.

August 21, 2014**New WIDA Assessment Coordinator Webinars available next week**

The Office of Standards and Assessment would like to extend an invitation to New WIDA Assessment Coordinators to participate in two “New Assessment Coordinators” webinar that will be held on August 26, 2014 from 2-3pm and on August 27, 2014 from 9-10am. The purpose of these webinars is to instruct New Assessment Coordinators of the basic information about the WIDA Assessments as well as help you think about how best to plan for important assessment related activities.

To confirm your participation we are asking that you email Cristina Rodriguez at rodriguezc@michigan.gov on or before 5pm on August 25, 2014 for Day 1 and on or before 5pm August 26, 2014 for Day 2. Once your participation has been confirmed, you will receive an email with the log in information needed to participate.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call Cristina at 517-373-7559.

WIDA-ACCESS Placement Test Screener Cycle I Now Open in BAA Secure Site

The Screener Cycle I for the WIDA-ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT) is open in the BAA Secure Site. Scores for any student who has been administered the W-APT must be entered into the BAA Secure Site regardless of how well they score. Please refer to the How to enter W-APT Scores document on Michigan’s WIDA website. Please note that entering W-APT scores into the BAA Secure Site does not automatically identify a student as an English Learner (EL). Designations for student demographics such as this are managed through the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS).

Please direct any questions regarding this communication to baa@michigan.gov or (877) 560-8378, option 8.

Education Entity Master (EEM) Contact Information

As the new school year is fast approaching, it is imperative to contact your district’s EEM specialist to add/update contact information in the EEM for your school if necessary.